

SEVERALL CONSIDERATIONS,

Offered to the Parliament concerning the improvement of Trade, Navigation, and Commerce, more especially, the old draperies and other woollen manufactures of England: by G.C. a Lover, of his country.

WHereas in former ages, the subjects of *England*, lived chiefly by pasturage and tillage, they were necessitated, to transport their wooles, to bring in bullion, and other comodities, for their support, and pleasures. But after the invention of gunns and gunpowder. Shipping, & marriners, increasng soe much in forraign parts (from the product of English woole) both in number and strenght; *England* could not be defended any longer, with bows and arrowes, wherefore they slighted many old castles, and trusted to new Shipps, and even at last to thinke upon trade and comerce, which proved the cheifest fortress, and support of the King and Kingdome.

After the dissolution of Monasteries and Abbies, the people multiplying soe fast, they settled severall Colonies, and plantations in *Asia* and *America*, finding noe roome at home, for all yonger brothers to live, and gett estates. Diverse of them, that were naturally adicted to the warrs, left the service of other *Princes*, and *States* (where English men sell their skinns, and spinn ont their lives, for *brass stivers*, and *sols marques*) to seeke their forttnes in those Dominions, that were added to the Crowne, through the great charges and industry of severall well affected persons (to their *King and Country*) who since have not only lost their reall possessions, but their originall costs, by bad government, and worse conducts.

When the staple of woole was kept at *Middleburgh*, in *Richard the seconds* time, and at *Calais*, in *Edward the thirds* time, it was ordained, that for every sack of woole, which should be transported out of *England*, there should be a competent quantity of silver bullion returned, besides 50s. a sack for custome outwards to the King. And to prevent all manner of fraudes in those days, there were severall offices of the staple erected at *West-minster*, *New-castle*, *Yorke*, *Lincolne*, *Canterburp*, *Excester*, *Bristol*, and other places, soe that, a fleece of woole, could not be exported, without account to the King, and a returne to the Kingdome. The tenth parte of all wooles being to come to the church, their officers served the Crowne gratis, for the benefitts they received of maintenance, and protection, which may be done, now by Parochiall, and Secular persons, as was then by Regulars, without any charge to the crowne.

It is the Custome in *England* for the cheifest lords in *Parliament*, to sitt upon woole packs, to put them in minde of the naturall groweth of their estates, and the best dependance of the Crowne, and the comon wealth.

A pack of English woole containing 100. waight, Exceeds in value a pack of the finest flax, Goates haire, or the finest filke, of the same waight, as farr as 100. waight of English Tin, or lead, Exceeds 100. waight of Hollands turfe, digged out of their silver Mines. In regard English woole, is of that absolute necessity to most nations of the world,

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for warmth, and cloathing, when the other is for pleasure and delight. 100. waight of fine flax, mohaire, or silke, may sett as many people at worke, as a pack of woole, but it is not univerfally of the tenth parte, for use of apparell, or consumption. And the one being of English groweth, and the other fforraigne, the woole adds to the *Kingdome*, and the other deminisheth.

100. Pore men, women, and children, are ufually imployed, and sett at worke by every 100. waight of English woole (viz) **Combers, Spinners, Reelers, Weavers, Knitters, Dyers, Cloathworkers, Rowers, Fullers, Labourers, &c.** That consumes the graine and victualls of *England*, and foe many people must stand ftill, begg, or ftarve, for want of worke at home, for every pack of woole that is transported from thence, into *France, Flanders* or *Holland*. Where there are great quantities of English, Irh, and Scotch woole, (*Notwithstanding all the strikt laws to the contrary*) Frequently carried over towards the manufacture of cloath, ftuffes, ftockings, monmouth capps, Tappiftry, Dornick hangings, Ratines, Bays, Drugetts, &c. Which cannot be wrought alone with their short ftaple wooles.

The *Kings of France*, originally granted liberty, and priviledges, to all nations that would come, and inhabite *Flanders, Brabant, &c.* Whereupon, thofe great, & populous Citties and townes, were fuddanly built by ftangers, of all arts and fciences. And many of their beft Churches, Monafteries, and Abbies, were founded, and erected, by *Several Kings of England*, and noble men in the *Saxons* time; As the records of *Flanders*, makes appeare, Amongft which, there is a very remarkable Hiftory. The *Queene of France* in her progreff, coming to vifit *Brugis* and *Gant*, she found, the people foe richly cloathed, that she fayd she thought, there had been but one *Queene in France*, but there she found all the women *Queens*, and wished she had been a Cloathiers wife alfo, moft of the inhabitants, being Cloathiers, Weavers, and others, that lived upon the manufacture of English woole, which foe increafed their wealth, and beauty, to wonder, and admiration.

Afterwards by feveral acts of Providence, many thoufand **Weavers, Felt makers, Knitters, and Spinners**, transported themselves for *England*, when the great Councell of the land, had prohibited the transportation of woole, and encouraged the woollen manufactures at home. Then a Charter was granted to the Marchant adventurers, who maintained feveral perfons, in all the fea Port townes of *England, France* and *Flanders*, to make feizures, and discoveries, of all wooles, and fullers Earth, that should be conveyed out of his *Majesties* Dominions, to fforraigne parts; But fince the Charter of the Company, was broaken, that trade is decayed, and the old drapery of *England* flighted, in the *Seaventeen Provinces*, through the great burthens, new impositions, and exations, lately layd upon *English* manufactures, whereby that Comerce is neglected, and interlopers expofing Cloath, Kerfies, and Searges, to contempt by their pedling, & offering them, to fale in comon tavernes, and tipling houfes. Soe that the ftaple comodities of *England*, will at lenght be unregarded. Whereof I have fpoken more at large, in my remarkable paffages, concerning the *Hollanders*, fince the death of *Queen Elizabeth*. And had prepared theife following confiderations (during the late treaty with the *States Generall*) for opening the *Scheld*, which I leave to yover grave wifdomes, and apprehenfions, upon all future events.

(3)
CONSIDERATIONS

Of the Advantages, which the *King of great Brittain*, and his subjects, may draw by the opening of the navigation, in the River of the Scheld, to the city of *Antwerpe*.

THere is nothing of more importance to the united Provinces, then navigation, by which they doe not only subsist, but are enriched, and render themselves formidable to all the Princes, and Potentates of Europe.

And to the prejudice of all their neighbours, and their owne great profit, they draw to themselves, the Commerce of the whole world, as well in respect of the sale of goods, in their owne Country, as of what they distribue unto others.

And although their Commerce seeme to be interrupted, and deminished by this warr, yet that is only for a time, since that as sone as they shall have peace, they will imediately settle themselves againe, in the trade, to the Exclusion of all other nations.

Wherefore the only means to weaken the states, and to divert this inundation of trade (that swells amongst them) without any effusion of blood, or expence of his Majesties subjects. It being a Sure and easie conquest, which is gott by peace. A free Passage ought to be procured, for his Majesties subjects and their Shippes in the River of Scheld up to the city of Antwerp.

First the same, being a city very comodious for its situation, environed with Machelen, Brussells and many other great citties and townes. The entry to the sea Port, very good and sure in time of winter, the River capable to carry Shippes of 400. Tunn, The inhabitants naturally inclined to trade. The Exchanges to all other Countries there, the conducts and land carriages settled unto Germany Italy, &c. The many litle Channels and Rivers for transporting their marchandiz, and all other qualities requisite to a towne of Commerce.

Thither his Majesties subjects, might not only carry all sort of wares, and marchandises of their owne, and other countries, for the use of the Provinces of Brabant, Flanders, Hennow, and others under the obedience of his most Catholique Majestie, but likewise be distributed, further into the Country, to the french conquests; Leige, Germany, Italy, &c.

And goods exported in one Bottome, directly from England, Scotland and Ireland, and other places in the Shippes of his Majesties subjects, might be sold in Antwerpe, and be transported from thence more easily, and much cheaper then any other way what soever Also the manufactures of the low countries, the new conquests of ffraunce, as Likewise of Leige, Germany, Italy, &c. Might be carried from Antwerpe into England Scotland and Ireland at ffar less rates.

By the Establisshed lawes of England, noe fforraigne Shipp, can bring in any Marchandise here, but what is the product of that Country from whence they came. And noe treaty can abrogate an act of Parliament, or knowne law of the land. VVhat comes from Leigh, Germany,

ny, Itally, &c. (Now loaded in Holland Shipps) being brought by the Conducts and land Carriages to be loaded at Antwerpe, Should be transported into England, Scotland, and Ireland, and other Countries in English Shipps, excluding all others.

This alone would see increase navigation, and cause see considerable a trade to the subjects of England, that the obtaining thereof, ought to be indeavored without any other consideration.

S **E**condly the subjects of England, might establish the staple of English Cloath, in the Towne of Antwerpe, which would be of much more advantage, and profit to those concerned, then at Dort, in respect it is a manufacture, which is not made in Antwerpe, nor in other townes thereabouts.

But on the contrary, the Hollanders counterfeit the Manufacture of English Cloath, at Leyden, and other townes nere to Dort, see craftily, and subtilly, making their cloath of the same Colours, yet slighter and of less value, whereby they undersell the English, in all fine Cloaths, to the great detriment of his Majestie, and his subjects, in the sale, and distribution of the English drapery, in forraigne parts.

And the Hollanders being naturally inclined to thrift, and to favour their owne manufactures, they Cloath them selves, in their owne Country Cloath, and indeavor to introduce the same, into other Countries both farr and nere, to the Exclusion of English Cloath.

For which cause the sale of English Cloath in Holland, is very small. But if the staple were established at Antwerpe it would be far otherwise, as well in respect of what would be put off in the Provinces belonging to the King of Spaine, as of what would be sould in the Citties and townes of the ffrench conquests, and further unto Leige, Germany, Itally, &c.

The transportation from Antwerpe is at present more comodious and sure to the other Countries before mencioned, because the same may be without paying any imposts, to any other Prince then the Catholique King, not goeing through any other territory but his.

VVhereas on the contrary goeing from Dort to the aforesayd Countries, they must pass through severall Jurisdiccions, and consequently pay the transits, which how small-soever it be, is burthen to the Marchandises. As the thirtie severall tolls unto others Princes, Landgraves and others upon Rheinisch wines, before they come to Antwerpe by Dort.

T **H**irdly the silks which comes from the hither parts of Itally, by the conducts to Antwerpe to be transported from thence into England, Scotland and Ireland, the same being done by English Shipps directly, would be of less charge then other-ways; Likewise the Dangers Sea is less in winter, by the comodiousnes, of the Port and entry of this River.

The Shipps of his Majesties subjects, would also have the benefit of transporting the same with other merchandises, and might have the advantage of many voyages, and loading which at present others have to their loss.

I pass over in silence and leaue to the consideration of those that trade, the infinite other profits, Judging it sufficient to poynt only in this litle discourse at the great advantages, his Majesties subjects of great Brittain will draw from the navigation.

But it must be granted, that both in times of peace and warr, that English Shippes be not searched, nor visited, or obliged to declare unto whom the Loading, or marchandise belongs. And that a free Shipp, shall make free goods, as is condescended on betwixt the Catholique King, and the states of the united Provinces.

By this means, if the King of Spaine, come to a rupture with the sayd states, or any other Prince, or comon wealth, English Shippes not being to be troubled, either going, or coming, will be always preferred, and soe shall draw the navigation to them selves.

If there fall out any misunderstanding, betwixt any other Potentates. And that the Marchants Shippes, need any convoy, there vvill be employment for the men of warr, vvho may conduct them by flushing or further up the River. And in that case the King of great Brittain after the Example of his most Christian Majesty, to bring about and Establish this navigation, in favour of his subjects, might give Convoyes gratis, to attend the Marchants Shippes, for at first they must be incouraged, by good offices.

All the difficultie, and opposition, in this affaire, will arise from the Zelanders, because at present they possess the Entry to this River. The states having gotten. Breskens in Flanders (over against flushing) acquitted by Spaine in the treaty at Munster Anno 1648.

But seeing, that by other ways and means their Commerce is taken away at Havre de Grace, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Ostend, Hambourgh, &c. Without being able to helpe it, nor draw any profit from thence, which may make them jealous and resolve not to quitt the profit, they draw by this navigation.

In Answer to that difficultie.

All the great Shippes, which are not allwayes able to come up the River for want of water, or hindered by contrary winds, being to unloade will doe the same in the vessells of Zeland, whereby the towne and inhabitants of Flushing, and others will reape the profit, of the selling, and buying, and other expences of seamen, and passengers, who shall lodge there, both at there loading, and unloading. The Pylotts will be payd for guiding the Shippes, up the River, and many other profitts.

And if those of that Province, should not permitt this passage, without receiving some small customes, the same may be agreed on, by the tunn, or Shipp, without being obliged, to pay perticularly for Each marchandise, or to make declaration of the same.

If they should not consent, his Majesty hath the same power in his hands, to exclude and forbid the Shippes of Zeland, and others of the states, from going up the River of Thames, but to unlade in English vessells at Graves End, obliging them to pay the same imposts, and tolls, which they Exact from his Majesties subjects.

It is not just, that for any agreement, the states made with Spaine, they should pretend to Exclude all other nations, from sayling on a River which God and nature hath made free. More Especially great Brittain. The King being not concerned in the treaty at Munster, who ought to enjoy the same priviledges, and liberties granted by all the former treaties betweene the Dukes of Burgundy and Austria and the Kings of England wherby the 17. Provinces, hold and enjoy those liberties, benefitts and advantages, of the Kings Harbours,

Havens, Ports, Rivers, and streames at all times and seasons in England, without which the 7. united Provinces (that were branches of Austria and Burgundy) could not subsist.

By the treaty, which the usurper Cromwel, made with the states of the united Provinces, it was indefinitely agreed, that English men, and their Shippes, might freely and without trouble, trade and sayle with their marchandize in and through all parts, and places, of the united Provinces to the townes situated within their jurisdictions, or without, the same. And consequently it was beleived and averred, that that Article did containe the grant of a free passage, for his Majesties subjects up the River, to Antwerpe, being drawne out of the treaty concluded in the yeare 1495. betwene King Henery the 7. and Phillip Duke of Burgoundy and Austria. And it ought Ano: 1654. to have been put in Execution, but was suspended for some reasons ~~Notwithstanding~~ the Hollanders upon all ocations fly to the treaty Ano: 1495. for their liberty and freedome of fishing upon the Coast of England.

In this present conjuncture, when the united Provinces are surrounded, and attacked, by such Royall powers, the sayd Provinces must be reduced, to the extremity that they will be obliged to make what agreement they can have. However if the Scheld were open to the English, they will still serve the spanish netherlands with butter Cheese fresh fish, salt fish wett, and dry. And all the 6. states of Zeland, viz Flushing, Midleburgh, Ter-veere, Zirrick-zee, Ter-goes and Ter-tolen will not be obstructed in any thinge of their other employments (they anciently had) by opening the River of Scheld to great Brittain, that sett open all their Rivers, Havens, and Harbours, to them in times of stormes, and distresse, that must otherwise often times perish.

IT is most certaine that it is the interest of the King of great Brittain, for the prosperity, and comerce of his subjects, to weaken the force of his naturall Enemies, by a more strickt Amity and good correspondence with the King of Spaine, and for that purpose, this free passage, for the Shippes of his Majesties subjects, ought to be procured and agreed upon in the insuing treaty of Peace, and that all English manufactures should have noe greater burthen, or exactions what soever layd upon them, either in the Spanish Netherlands, united Provinces, or in the french Conquests, then they payd in the times of the Dukes of Burgoundy, for which the crowne of England, granted all the liberties, and priviledges, to those Belgick Provinces in the English Seas, &c.

*This generous enterprize, without all peradventure, will find good
successe, if the King, and his Parliament, doe rightly un-
derstand each other, whose Memory will be Eter-
nall, amongst all nations, for the happy
Conclusion of soe noble an
undertaking.*

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SEUERALL WRITERS Upon the Holland Pollicies, doe much comend the states in stopping up the River Scheld, but they doe noe less wonder at the councell of *England*, that permitted it, seeing it breeds such a vast number of seamen to the prejudice of great *Brittaine*, that ought by all means, to prevent it, by sending their Shipps directly to *Antwerpe*, that are forced to unlade their goods in *Zeland* and *Rotterdam*, in small vessells of theirs, which is one of the great Nurseries of the dutch navigation, and that English men chiefly maintaines by those ffraights, besides the great advantages, the states make by their tolls, upon English goods in that River, which helps to support their usurped goverment, since they fell from the Crowne of *Spaine*.

Although there was some reason of state, for *England* to hinder the growth of *Spaine* by assisting the united Provinces. yet they wanted good consideration, and foresight, that lesned themselves with their Neighbours, by helping others.

Spaine never valued trade, *England* alwayes valued their pleasures, and *Holland* ever valued their profit. Whereby they make it their busines, to baffle all nations, and Kingdomes in Publique treaties, for their owne interest, to the prejudice of other men.

The *Zelanders* are a people, that upon all occations, serves for private men of warr against *England*, and are soe apt for such mischeife, by their naturall inclinations, and scituation of their country, that they ought to be bridled, when there is any opertunity to put curbes into their mouths.

The *Hollanders* are not contented with ploughing up the English Seas, and Harrowing the waues, but make marchandises of Gods word, in printing yearly, many thousand *English*, bibles, and practises of pyety at *Amsterdam* and *Leyden*, counterfeiting the Kings Armes, and Epistles to the Readers. A forgery not be suffered.

The Sabines of old, from whence sprunge the Athenians and the Lacedemonians, gave this Motto in all their Ensignes, and Banners S. P. Q. R. signifieing, Sabino Populo quis resistet. Whereupon the Romans caused the same letters, to be ingraven upon all their gates and Posturnes signifieing thereby Senatus Populusque Romanus, which Contracted a tedious and destructive warr. The *Hollanders* and *Zelanders*, since the last warr with *England*, have ingraven, and painted the Armes of the King of great *Brittaine* upon severall of their Fly Boates, and other Shipps amongst the number (that I know) upon one they named the ffrendshipp of London richly laden in *Zeland*, bound for *Cales*, and the Straights, with dutch, and Spanish goods, under the notion of *English*, having procured a master, and other *English* seamen, to Colour their false practises, which can only be questioned, by S. P. Q. R. (viz) Rex Senatusque Parlamenti otherwise the united Provinces will keepe, the trade, and navigation, unto themselves as well in times of warr, as peace.

As ther is nothing more shamefull, then a peace, which giveth way to the Enemies to fortifie themselves. Soe there is nothing more infamous, then to ley still, when the publick interest; obligeth to take armes; But since victories depend rather upon fortune, then valour. Its necessary to take all advantages, to give the *Hollanders* a ryfing blow, by some acts of Parliament, that may disabill them, from fighting with *England* a fourth time.

Great *Brittaine* hath the Soueraignty of the Sea; being scituated betweene *Spaine* and *Holland*, opposite to *France*. North westerly to the low Countries, and More Easterly to *norway* *Danemerke* *Sweedland*, &c. Soe that all quarters of the Earth must salute the floating towers of great *Brittaine*, that infinitely, expends vast sums yearly for mayntaining soe many harbours, and havens, from the raging Seas, to preserve the subjects and others. Yett many hundreds of the native Marriners, were soe degenerate, as to serve the states

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Generall in the late warrs against their ~~owne~~ Prince, and Country, and then by treaties of state got themselves indemnified against those base actions, which ought by act of Parliament, not only to be attainted in bloud, but they and their ffamilies, for ever made slaves, at *Tangier*, and *Jamiatra*.

In the same treaties, provisions are made, for all those that find themselves greived and oppressed in conscience, to transport themselves and their Estates, which is absolutely repugnant to the comon law of *England*, and destructive to the very being thereof.

If *Barbados*, *Surrinam*, and new *England*, had been annexed to the Crowne by act of Parliament. *Sr. William Courten* and his Heyres, had kept their propriety in the first. The *Lord willoughby* and his heyres, had not lost the soveraignty of the second. And the King of great Brittain had not lost soe many subjects in the third, by a Charter framed at *Leyden* by those Professors, when the first greived and oppressed ffamilies, in their tender consciences, went from *England*, to *Leyden*, and from thence, to new *England*, with their Estates, as a people, absolved from their King, to seeke an other land. VVhich will spoyle the trade, and navigation of old *England*, in many partes of the world, if not timely prevented.

Some of all nations, left their native Countries, to become *Herring-fishers*, *Shoep* *Carpenters*, *Roapemakers* and *Seple Cloath-weavers*, &c. In the united Provinces, where they are made slaves. And would gladly come now for *England*, upon reasonable termes, and better Priviledges, to plant themselves, and their ffamilies in some convenient places of *England*, or wales, where they may be settled by act of Parliament, and become subjects to the Crowne of *England*, and would be contented with small *Islands*, or old decayed townes, in *suffolk*, or *norfolke*, &c. Nere the Sea Coast, where they may improve themselves, for the benefit of the King and the Country.

It is the saying of an Ancient Father in *Flanders*, that there cannot be any good confidence between *England* and *Spaine*, in regard of the great blows, the *Spanish Monarchie* hath received from *England*. And that there cannot be any true ffreindship, betweene *France* and *England*, in regard of the great pretence, that the King hath to the Crowne, who quarters the Armes of *France* in his *Scutchion*, but the constitution of times altering, there may be exeptions taken to those generall Rules. However if *England* can trust themselves, they may contemne all the world, wherein the insolent and ungratefull *Hollanders* and *Zelanders*, (that gives litle reverence to treaties, or respect to laws) wants neither, malice, nor will, to doe all possible Mischeife, to *England*, when opetunity serves, as may be well apprehended, by the late Pattennt granted by the states, to the *West-India Company*, (hereunto annexed) whereby they intend, to make as great progress, and incroachments upon the English, in the *West-Indies*, as they have done in the East.

To conclude all in a word, with the staple of *England*, nothing can add more to the flourishing Estate of the Land, then to preserue the credit, and reputation of English Manufactures, and nothing can soe much advance them, to their former Esteeme, as good government, both in the making and disposinge thereof. And for the better regulation of that trade, and comerce, there is noe way soe propper, as to re-establish the Company of Marchant adventures, by act of Parliament, with a new Charter of Priviledges, admitting all persons, to be ffree thereof, that shall be quallified therunto accordingly, who shall haue noe greater, burthens, or impositions layd upon English Manufactures, then were in the Dukes of *Burgoundyes* times, conformable to the late treaty, Concluded by the Earle of *Sandwich* at *Madrid* Anno M. DC. LXVII.

Brussels Aprill 13. 1675.

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